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times. A painter may gain reputation in the execution of a piece even though the original were the most hideous monster.

The remark on the inaccuracy in my language I consider to be puerile, and altogether unworthy a man who makes any pretensions to literature. It comes with a particularly bad grace from a person who writes such sentences as the following:

"Where innate capacity, stamina to work upon are not education cannot communicate them.

"A man born with *no* brains capable in future life of thinking for himself, with *no inherent* talent for *observation* and *reflection*, with *no embryo* fitness for *collecting a stock of common sense*, communicating *it* to the world, may through the long and assiduous drilling of schools and colleges become a *made man* an artificial being, a sort of human machinery; yea he may become an *adept* in the superficial matters of letters, but never will be a successful, an entertaining, an instructing, or original author."

"General censure, when no name is mentioned, *may be improved* by all to whom it applies without wounding the feelings of any individual *before the public*."

"This publication appears to me to have been rather *unseasonable* both as to *time* and *place*."

Errors are the con-comitants of human productions. I have not selected these sentences with a view to prejudice the public against S. E. as a writer. I will even do him the justice to say that had he met with similar inaccuracies in the writings of another, or could he divest himself of that parental affection which attaches every person to his own language, and blindfolds his judgment respecting it, he would, at once, have detected them. He will now however more forcibly see the propriety of taking the beam out of his own eye, before he attempts to take the mote out of his neighbour's. A.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON IMPROVEMENT.

I LATELY spent a day or two with an eminent bleacher of the North, who is a most zealous supporter of BELFAST MAG. NO. XXVII.

our glorious constitution in church and state, and crows upon the steeple of Protestant ascendancy. The morning after my arrival, he took me with him, to show me the process used by him, with great success, in the new method of bleaching. As I entered a small apartment, the peculiar air affected my eyes, and nose. Oh, said I, I think I smell French principles. What do you mean, replied he, very drily, by French principles? Why, said I, the principles of the French philosophy, which have overturned completely the despotism of phlogiston, a name which ruled, with its "ipse dixit," like Aristotle, or Alexander, and have introduced instead, another principle, called vital air, or oxygen with which they design to cleanse and purify every thing. I have not much acquaintance, said he, with these hard words, but I am certain, that wherever the discovery came from, it is an excellent, expeditious, and with proper precaution, perfectly safe method of bleaching; and that bundle of webs you see lying on the grass, and nearly white, were put last night into the vat as full of spirit, as this web which I hold in my hand. And what are the materials used? None, but the most common, common salt, oil of vitriol, and that black stuff called manganese, which we at present import from abroad, but I am told there is plenty of it in Ireland, and not farther off than the Hill of Howth. Have you known, said I, many changes in the method of bleaching? O, said he, a number, from the buttermilk sour which turned putrid, to the vitriol sour, which in the way it was used, often burned the cloth, but this is the safest and best sour yet invented. How were these changes relished? Why, at first they were disliked, some laughed at them, others were afraid of trying them, others lay quietly by, and while they sturdily spoke against them in conversation, or did not chuse to be at the risque, trouble, and danger of adventuring, waited until their neighbours had tried the experiment, and when it was found to serve the intention, then they fell in, and became its greatest advocates. What then are the advantages of this new improve-

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ment^s. It saves time. It saves labour, and in short, it whittens the cloth, without weakening its strength and its fibre.

Now, my good friend, it seems strange, that you, who are so much for speculation, adventure, and improvement in your own profession, should think that the constitution of politics can never stand in need of improvement. For my part, I consider a reform in the common house of parliament, a *sine qua non* of national education. Education is only bleaching a brown web into a white one. These are both processes which admit of much abridgment. The common mind, dirty and soiled, like the brown and soaped web, may be whitened and purified more safely, certainly, and expeditiously, than it has been. In that dirty manganese is contained the essence of the process, its vital air. Its *virtue* lay, and would still have lain neglected, had not the power of philosophy drawn it from its darkness and dungeon. In this coarse and unpromising ore, we discover that vital air, that popular power, which those who know its value, and those only, can draw forth, to purge, and purify the stains and foulnesses, which every thing on earth contracts, mental or material, and what is oldest, most. There is a hidden value in the most common things. Blest is the government which has the inclination to educe it. But most governments wish the manufacture of mind to be idle. Their neglect, like buttermilk sour, rots the cloth. Their vitriol sour of strong government burns it. Our weakness, our vices, and our prejudices are found the most productive sources of revenue. The cloth will at length be whitened by nature's process; by the air, the light, and the water: so the natural improveability of humanity, may be accelerated by the benevolent ingenuity of art. The true staple of every country is MAN, he may be exposed to the purer air of philosophy, or remain in the stagnant pool of corruption, he may be placed under the influence either of a LANCASTER or of a FORSTER.

X.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SEVENTH REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN IRELAND.

To his Grace, Charles Duke of Richmond and Lenox, &c. Lord Lieutenant, general, and general Governor of Ireland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

WE the undersigned commissioners, appointed for inquiring into the several funds and revenues granted for the purposes of education, and into the state and condition of all schools upon public or charitable foundations in Ireland, beg leave to lay before your grace our report upon the Hibernian School in the Phoenix Park, for maintaining, educating, and apprenticing the orphans and children of soldiers in Ireland.

A petition having been presented in the year 1769 to his present majesty, from the then lord primate, the archbishop of Dublin, the lord chancellor, with divers noblemen, bishops, judges, gentry, and clergy of the kingdom of Ireland, stating, "That upon the death of non-commissioned officers and private men in the army of said kingdom, and upon the removal of regiments, and of drafts from regiments to foreign service, great numbers of children had been left destitute of all means of subsistence; that a subscription had been set on foot in the year 1764, for raising a fund to support the establishment of an hospital, in order to preserve children left in such circumstances from popery, beggary, and idleness; that the subscribers had received great encouragement from parliament and the public, and said petitioners praying, that his majesty would be graciously pleased, by letters patent under the great seal of the said kingdom of Ireland to incorporate said petitioners and other subscribers to said charitable institution," his majesty was graciously pleased to approve of said charitable institution, and being desirous that it should be conducted with such economy and regularity as might rende